



STANLEY JACOBS, 1896 - 1989.

(*Photograph taken at British Museum (Natural History) xi.1983.*)

## OBITUARY

### Stanley Norman Aflalo Jacobs

1896 - 1989

Stanley Jacobs passed away on 14th September 1989 at the age of 92. A figure on the entomological "scene" since the early 1920s, his influence was wide, ranging from his editorship of the *Record*, published illustrations of microlepidoptera to curatorial work at the British Museum (Natural History).

Born on 11th November 1896 he spent his early life in south-east London, attending St Dunstan's College, Catford which he left in 1914 to take up a post as an engineering apprentice with Vickers. At the outbreak of the First World War he tried to enlist, but was too young for a commission. He eventually joined the Public School Battalion of the 16th Middlesex Regiment and with them served two and a half years in France, transferring to the Royal Engineers in 1918 before being invalided home after exposure to mustard gas.

After the war he took up agriculture, working mainly with poultry, and including a spell working in Canada. Eventually he joined his father's shipbroking business, remaining there, except for a spell in the

Metropolitan Police Special Constabulary during the Second World War, until his retirement.

His interest in entomology began in early childhood, inspired by his grandfather's personal "museum" — a fashionable feature of the Victorian home, and his father's accounts of collecting Apollo butterflies in Germany.

His first collection began in 1906, and comprised a series of "whites" on dressmaker's pins, stored in cardboard boxes. This eventually grew to 180 drawers, the contents of which were incorporated into the National Collection some years ago.

He joined the South London Entomological and Natural History Society in 1923. He held a number of offices and was twice elected as President of the Society — in 1954 and 1964, and became an honorary life member in 1967. Perhaps the most significant aspect of joining the SLENHS in the 1920s and 30s was the opportunity to mix with and meet the (now) famous names, including H.J. Turner, Robert and Guy Adkin, L.T. Ford, E.A. Cockayne, N.D. Riley, K.G. Blair, S. Wakely, W. Fassnidge and W.H. Tams. Through these, Jacobs developed a network of international contacts, many of whom became personal friends, including L. Lhomme, J. Klimesch, A.G. Carolsfeld-Krause, A.B. Klots and D. Povolny.

Before the Second World War he began working part-time at the British Museum (Natural History), developing an interest in insects which were stored-product pests. He increased his voluntary work for the museum after his retirement in 1962, and was responsible for the curation of a number of collections, mainly the pyralidae. In 1973 he was made an Honorary Associate of the Museum.

Stanley Jacobs was also a talented artist. Amongst his more well-known works were many of the colour plates published by the SLENHS in their series on microlepidoptera, and which were published in 1978 as the collected volume *Illustrated papers on British microlepidoptera*. He also painted the colour plates for B.P. Beirne's *British pyralid and plume moths*, published by Warne in 1952 and illustrated many entomological papers with line drawings.

His association with the *Entomologist's Record* began in 1948 when Henry Turner asked him to join the editorial panel. After the resignation of E.A. Cockayne as editor in 1955, P.B.M. Allan took over as a "caretaker", and it was he who persuaded Jacobs to take over the role of editor a few months later. He edited the *Record* for 17 years during which time he restored the ailing fortunes of the journal, and laid the foundations for the current format. He retired as editor, handing over to Michael Chalmers-Hunt, in 1972.

Stanley Jacobs was a cheerful and determined character, undeterred by the problems of advancing years, and active until the end. Our sympathy goes to his daughter, Mrs Ann Newman.

PAUL SOKOLOFF